First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

"Follow Me"

https://creativeconflictwisdom.wordpress.com/2013/01/22/blessed-are-the-poor-homelessness-and-the-beatitudes/

No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you're welcome here.

July 26, 2015 10:00 am

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community
committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Like A Healing Stream"** **73 SING** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Donna Eyster

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"** **347 NCH**

Call to Worship (Unison) Donna Eyster

One: This is the hour to listen for information from God..
It is the time to offer our best to our Creator.
Many: We gather before God who gave us life and breath.
We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.
One: God's presence evokes our joyous worship.
The Holy Spirit empowers our service.
Many: We come to be strengthened in our inner being.
We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading Psalms 145 (Psalter) Steve McGhee

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament Reading Ephesians 3: 1-2,7-9, 14-21 Donna Eyster

Sermon **"Mercy In Action"** Carol Hall

Welcome of New Members into the Congregation Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"We Have This Ministry"** **47 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version

Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.
Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Most compassionate Life-giver,
May we honor and praise you;
May we work with you to establish
your new order of justice, peace and love.
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
That we may resist all evil.
For all the tenderness,
Strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen.
- W. Wallace, Rainbow Cathedral Church, Tacoma WA

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison)

Carol Hall

We bring a portion of all God entrusts to us to be used, not for our pet projects, but for the mission of the church, in this community, throughout our land and around the world. We express our gratitude for the gift of Jesus Christ and for the peace we know deep within when we become disciples and apostles. May we follow the model of God's generosity. Amen.

Offertory

Steve McGhee

*Doxology

"Take My Gifts" **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)*

Donna Eyster

We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by your grace so there is more than enough for all – more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Bring Many Names"** **11 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: Go out to share what you have received.
God will multiply the gifts that you give away.

Many: We are embraced by God's steadfast love.
We will look up and not be afraid.

One: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen your inner being.

Many: May Christ be honored in all we say and do.
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website:* *www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: July 26th	Next Sunday: August 2nd
Usher	Wayne Burling	Jamie Goldsmith
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Tad Wysor
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Wayne Burling
Acolyte	Desayre Penn	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Patty Sherwood	Glenda Horvath

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING OF THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION: Our next meeting will be held at St. John's UCC in Grand Rapids on August 1st, 2015 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Contact Wayne (734) 377-0696 if you need more information.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.
Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

Today's Cover Page:

Blessed are the Poor: Homelessness and the Beatitudes

Posted on January 22, 2013

For some reason this photograph of a homeless man and his dog on the streets of London, makes me think of the Beatitudes as expressed in Luke Chapter 6 which I don't hear quoted much these days, especially by those who call themselves Christian fundamentalists.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'